February 1, 2025

Robbin Givens

Personal Life

- **Early Life**: Robin Simone Givens was born on November 27, 1964, in New York City. She was raised by her mother, Ruth Roper, after her father left the family when she was young. Robin grew up in Mount Vernon and New Rochelle, New York.

- **Education**: She attended New Rochelle Academy and later enrolled at Sarah Lawrence College at the age of 15, becoming one of the youngest students to attend the school. She graduated in 1984 with a degree in pre-medical studies.

- **Marriages and Family**: Robin married boxer Mike Tyson in 1988, but their marriage was tumultuous and ended in divorce in 1989 amid allegations of abuse. She later married tennis instructor Svetozar Marinković in 1997, but they separated the same year. Robin has two sons, Michael and William, from her relationships with Murphy Jensen and as a single mother.

- **Later Years**: Robin has been open about her struggles with clinical depression following her divorce from Tyson and has focused on raising her children and continuing her career in the entertainment industry.

Professional Life

- **Acting Career**: Robin Givens began her acting career with guest roles on popular TV shows like "The Cosby Show" and "Diff'rent Strokes." Her breakthrough came in 1986 when she was cast as Darlene Merriman on the ABC sitcom "Head of the Class," which ran for five seasons.

- **Film and Television Roles**: She appeared in several films, including "The Women of Brewster Place" (1989), "A Rage in Harlem" (1991), and "Boomerang" (1992). She also starred in the sitcom "Sparks" and had recurring roles on shows like "The Game," "Tyler Perry's House of Payne," and "Riverdale".

- **Directing and Producing**: In recent years, Robin has expanded her career to include directing

and producing. She made her directorial debut with the Lifetime movie "A Murder to Remember" in 2020 and has directed episodes of "Riverdale" and "Dynasty".

- **Advocacy**: Robin has been a spokesperson for the National Domestic Violence Hotline and has used her platform to raise awareness about domestic violence.

Robin Givens' life has been marked by her resilience and versatility, both in her personal struggles and her professional achievements.